

## CLAIMS:

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1. A DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or such a modified fragment, wherein said fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of said TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide.
2. A DNA molecule according to Claim 1 wherein said fragment is derived from the N-terminal domain of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
3. A DNA molecule according to Claim 2 of SEQ. ID. NO: 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a TAF<sub>II</sub>105 $\Delta$ C polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1 through 552 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2, or a part thereof.
4. A DNA molecule according to Claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 $\Delta$ C polypeptide having the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-452, 1-359 and 443-552.
5. A DNA molecule according to Claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a modified fragment obtained by internal deletion, replacement or addition of one or more amino acids of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 $\Delta$ C polypeptide such that the thus obtained modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
6. An expression vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 1 and DNA sequences required for its expression.
7. A polypeptide consisting of a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or a modified fragment thereof, wherein said fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of said TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide.
8. A polypeptide according to Claim 7 which is a fragment derived from the N-terminal domain of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
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9. A polypeptide according to Claim 8 of SEQ. ID. NO: 1, which is the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 $\Delta$ C polypeptide consisting of amino acids 1 through 552 of SEQ. ID. NO: 2, or a part thereof.
10. A polypeptide according to Claim 9 which is a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105C polypeptide selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-452, 1-359 and 443-552.
11. A polypeptide according to Claim 7 which is a modified fragment obtained by internal deletion, replacement or addition of one or more amino acids of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 $\Delta$ C polypeptide such that the thus obtained modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2.
12. A DNA molecule directing expression of an antisense RNA sequence to SEQ. ID. NO.: 1, or a part thereof, and which is capable of inhibiting its expression *in vivo*.
13. A pharmaceutical composition for inducing an apoptotic process in pathological cells comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active agent selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or such a fragment modified by internal deletion, replacement or addition of one or more amino acids, wherein the fragment or the modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide;
  - (b) an inhibitor or antagonist of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2;
  - (c) a DNA sequence encoding the fragment or modified fragment of (a); and
  - (d) a DNA sequence directing expression of an antisense RNA sequence to SEQ. ID. NO.: 1, or a part thereof, and which is capable of inhibiting its expression *in vivo*.

14. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 wherein the active agent (a) is a polypeptide consisting of a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or a modified fragment thereof, wherein said fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of said TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide.
15. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 wherein the active agent (c) is a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 or such a modified fragment, wherein said fragment or modified fragment has a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of said TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide.
16. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 for the treatment of cancer.
17. A method for promotion of apoptosis comprising administering to a subject in need, a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13.
18. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of pathological apoptosis of cells comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an active agent selected from the group consisting of:
- (e) a DNA molecule comprising the DNA sequence of SEQ. ID. NO: 1;
  - (f) a DNA molecule consisting of a DNA sequence encoding the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2;
  - (g) a modified DNA sequence of (a) or (b) in which one or more nucleotide triplets have been added, deleted or replaced, wherein the polypeptide encoded by the modified DNA sequence retains the normal biological activity of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2;
  - (h) the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide of SEQ. ID. NO: 2; and
  - (i) a modified polypeptide of (d) in which one or more amino acids have been added, deleted or replaced, wherein the modified polypeptide retains the normal biological activity of the TAF<sub>II</sub>105 polypeptide encoded by SEQ. ID. NO: 2.

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19. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 18 for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, inflammatory processes and viral or bacterial infections.

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